सामुदायिक सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के लिए हालैंड से सहायता

3508. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
चौधरी हरिसिंह :

क्या **जल संसाधन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्र सरकार को हौलैंड की सहायता से विभिन्न राज्यों में क्रियान्वित की जा रही सामुदायिक सिंचाई परियोजना का और अधिक जिलों तक विस्तार करने से संबंधित कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री श्री पी.के. थुंगन : (क) से (ग) इस समय नीदरलैंड की शुरू की जानेवाली सहायता परियोजना नामशः केरल समुदाय सिंचाई परियोजना, भारत सरकार और नीदरलैंड सरकार के बीच समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर होने के उन्नत स्तर में है। यह परियोजना लाभ-ग्राहियों के व्यापक सहयोग से त्रिचुर जिले में शुरू की जानी है। राज्य सरकार पार्श्व पत्र पहले ही अनुमोदित कर चुकी है। इसके अलावा, नीदरलैण्ड की सहायता के बारे कोई अन्य निर्माणाधीन अथवा प्रस्तावित सामुदायिक सिंचाई परियोजना इस मंत्रालय में प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

वरिष्ठ नागरिक पेंशन योजना

3509. **श्री कृष्णलाल शर्मा** : क्या **कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार देश में वरिष्ठ नागरिक योजना आरम्भ करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, क्या सरकार का सेवानिवृत्त वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को पेंशन के तौर पर मानद वेतन देने से संबंधित कोई प्रस्ताव है तथा उन्हें और क्या-क्या सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराए जाने का विचार है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) से (ग) इस समय वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए कोई नई योजना शुरू करने और सेवानिवृत्त वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को पेंशन के तौर पर मानद वेतन देने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

राज्य सरकारों द्वारा निराश्रित वयोवृद्धों तथा संगठित क्षेत्र के कर्मचारियों को सांविधिक पेंशन के लिए कार्यान्वित की जा रही अनेक पेंशन योजनाओं के अतिरिक्त, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने वयोवृद्धों के कल्याण में स्वैच्छिक संगठनों की सहायता देने के लिए 8वीं योजना के अंतर्गत एक योजना शुरू की है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत, वयोवृद्धों के लिए वृद्धावस्था गृहों, दिवा देखभाल केन्द्रों की स्थापना करने संचल चिकित्सा सेवाओं तथा गैर-संस्थागत सेवाओं को समर्थन देने एवं सुदृढ़ करने के लिए स्वैच्छिक संगठनों को सहायता-अनुदान दिया जाता है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत अभी तक 50 वृद्धावस्था गृह तथा 147 दिवा देखभाल केन्द्र स्थापित किए गए हैं। यह उपाय उन कार्यक्रमों के अतिरिक्त है जो स्वैच्छिक संगठनों द्वारा स्वयं वयोवृद्धों के कल्याण हेतु चलाए जाते है। वयोवृद्ध जनसंख्या के सभी क्षेत्रों तक पहुंचने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं जिन्हें राज्य द्वारा देखभाल की आवश्यकता है।

NATIONAL POLICY ON AGED PERSONS

3510. **SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA** : Will the Minister of **WELFARE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any National Policy on aged persons;

(b) whether Government have sought views of the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and others on the draft of National Policy on the Welfare of the aged;

(c) if so, whether their views have since been received and examined by Government;

(d) the salient features of the proposed policy; and

(e) by when the said national policy on the welfare of the aged is likely to be finalised and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Replies have been received from eight State Governments|UT Administrations and have been examined. The comments of the Voluntary Organisations and Experts have also been examined.

(d) A statement indicating the salient features of the draft policy for the Welfare of the Aged is attached as Statement. (*See* below)

(e) The views of other State Governments|UT Administrations are awaited. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate a time-frame for the finalisation of a National Policy.

STATEMENT

Salient features of the proposed national policy on the welfare of the aged.

1. Particular attention should be paid, in social security and social programmes, to the circumstances of the elderly women whose income is generally lower than men's and whose continuous employment has been broken up by maternity and family responsibilities.

2. Attempts should be made to facilitate participation of older persons in the economic life of the society by creating conditions conducive to employment on a part-time or honorary basis in the unorganised sectors.

3. Measures should be taken to assist older persons to fund or return to independent employment by creating new employment possibilities.

4. Despite the significant unemployment problems facing the country, the retirement age for employees should not be lowered except on a voluntary basis.

5. Organisational framework and programmes at the Central and State level as recommended by the Working Group on special social problems for the Eighth Five Year Plan should be accepted for implementation including setting up of (i) National Board for Senior Citizens, (ii) National Institute for Senior Citizens, (iii) Formulation of policies and special programmes for schemes such as construction of homes for the elderly, maintenance of destitute elderly in homes, day care centres to improve the quality of life of elderly, foster care services for them etc.

6. Constitution of Committee for welfare of Senior Citizens at the State level.

7. Effort will be made through curricula at school and college levels for sensitising the young with the changing needs of aged and their importance as integral parts of family and community.

8. Financial and other social supports should be provided through governmental and non-governmental programmes to the families specially belonging to the lower income group to help them to continue to maintain their elders.

9. The aged should be encouraged to form their own voluntary organisations and cooperatives.

10. Facilities should be given to the aged by providing ground floors of flats to the aged. They should not be required to make a queue in hospitals.

11. Local bodies should construct group houses with common services to cater to the very specific needs of the elderly of all categories.

12. Special attention should be paid to evolve programmes and policy incentives for the unorganised sectors and the society which are not covered by the regular pension and other retirement benefits.

13. Geriatric OPDs may be opened in hospitals and at least 5 per cent beds be reserved for them. Transit hospitals for the aged should also be set up in big cities.

CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY

3511. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the observer of November 13, 1993 under the caption 'Freedom, rights and the child';

(b) whether it is a fact that India will have 144 million more children when it enters into the 21st century;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 60 million children in India live in absolute poverty; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government have examined the problems being faced by both, male and female children in the country;

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what is Goverment's policy about the welfare of children both unemployed and employed in factories and other establishments in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the estimate of the Standing Committee of Experts on Population Projections, child population upto the age of 14 years was 304 million in 1991. The projected figure for the year 2001 is 322 million.

(c) No such information is available. The basic unit for working out poverty-line is family.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A series of situational studies and research works have been published by the Ministries dealing with child welfare and development. The Ministry of Welfare has sponsored and published 9 volumes on the problems of street children in India. The Ministry of Labour has published a series of books analysing the problems of child labour in important sectors and locations. The Department of Women and Child Development has sponsored research studies on various aspects of child development such as malnutrition, mental growth and behavioural development. In addition to these the Government receives regular feedback through constant monitoring and evaluation of schemes and projects.

(f) The policy of the Government with regard to such children is reflected in the National Policy document relating to Child Labour (1987) and in the National Policy for Children adopted by the Government of India in 1974. Recently, the Government of India has adopted a National Policy on Nutrition (1993) for the specially vulnerable groups including children below the poverty-line.

In addition to the National Policies, National Plan of Action for Children and National Plan of Action for the Girl Child have been prepared with National-level inter-ministerial committees to monitor the progress of implementation of the Plans.